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Youth-Run Livestock Production in Ido Local Government, Oyo State, Nigeria

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Abstract. The objective of this study was to examine the youth-run livestock production in Ido Local Government, Oyo State, Nigeria. Cross-sectional data were obtained from 180 youth-run livestock producers who were selected through a multi-stage sampling procedure. Descriptive and inferential statistics were used for data analysis. The results showed that the major livestock the youths commonly reared was cattle (48.3%) while the major problems facing the youth-run livestock production were insufficient financial resources (4.5) and animal illnesses (4.2). Chi-square analysis shows that a significant relationship ($p<0.05$) exists between sex ($\chi^2 = 8.8$), educational level ($\chi^2 = 35.1$) and income generated from livestock farming innovativeness. Pearson Product Moment Correlation showed that age ($r = 0.37$) and years of experience in livestock enterprises ($r = 0.41$) had a significant ($p<0.05$) relationship with income generated from livestock production. The study concluded that youths in the study area are involved in livestock production and earn economic benefits from it and based on this it was recommended that financial assistance be provided to the youths and the need to create an enabling environment through the provision of basic social infrastructure by the government.

Keywords: Nigeria, youths, livestock, production

1. Introduction

The growth of young people and their sense of empowerment can both be greatly aided by their involvement in cattle enterprises. All profitable livestock-related operations are referred to as livestock businesses. The goal of incorporating young people in livestock operations is to use work as a tool to combat poverty and juvenile delinquency (Oladejo, 2010; Eniola et al., 2020). Young people can acquire the mindset, information, and abilities necessary to participate actively in society, work with adults to evaluate pressing concerns, and positively respond to address their needs and solve their problems (Sosina and Babayemi, 2020).

Youth make up a sizable portion of Nigeria's population, hence the value of young people in livestock operations cannot be overstated. Youths need to be properly channelled and harnessed for greater livestock production since they are robust and have ample energy (Adeniran, et al., 2018). Young participation in agriculture will assist address issues related to an ageing farm population and rising young unemployment. The participation of youth in agricultural activities has progressively decreased in recent years despite these incentives and the growing markets for primary and secondary agricultural commodities, despite the high current young unemployment rate and the number of agricultural jobs accessible (Oke et al., 2021).

Involving young people in livestock operations would not only give them employment options but will also boost food production and substantially close the gap between livestock supply and community demand (Oghenero et al., 2021). The study intends to provide useful information for policy implementation as regards youth participation in livestock enterprises and seeks to examine the youth-run livestock production in Ido Local Government, Oyo State, Nigeria.

The hypothesis of the study is stated in the null form as follows:

H_{01}: There is no significant association/relationship between youth characteristics and income from livestock ventures.

2. Methodology

Ido Local Government was purposefully chosen for this research among Ibadan's six outermost Local Government Areas because of its strong agrarian attitude and abundance of rural residents.
The land area of Ido Local Government is 986 square kilometres and includes Apata, Omi-Adio, Ido, Akufo, Awotan, Apete, Eleyele, and other communities. It is bordered by the local governments of Oluyole, Ibarapa East, Akinyele, Ibadan South-West, and Ibadan North-West in Oyo State, and Odeda in Ogun State. Ilaju, Akufo, Akinware, Apete, Idi-Iya, Erinwusi, Elenusonso, Ido, Omi-Adio, and Onidoko are the headquarters of the Local Government's 10 political wards. Ijokodo, Ido, Omi-Adio, Apata, Apete, Akufo, and Bakatari are just a few of the significant towns in the Local Government Area. Ijokodo, Ido, Omi-Adio, Apata, Apete, Akufo, and Bakatari are among the major cities within the Local Government Area, as are around 612 villages which include Dada, Olowofela, Apooyin, Oderemi, Odetola, Erinwusi, Tade, Alagbaa, and Iku-senla, among others. The majority of the members of the Yoruba ethnic group who speak the Yoruba language make up the Local Government, which is homogeneous. Their communities are kept together by their rich culture and belief in close familial relationships.

Farming is the main source of income for the locals, who mostly cultivate food and cash crops such as cocoa, oil palm, kola nut, cassava, maize, and yams (Omotayo and Oyekale, 2013). They also participated in non-farm activities (Omirin & Okpara, 2018). The activities that are not related to farming include commerce, food processing, metalworking, vocational jobs, and government service (Oladejo, 2010). For the processing of agricultural goods like cassava and cashew nuts, the region also benefits from the services of medium- and small-scale enterprises.

The study's target audience was youthful individuals in Oyo State's Ido Local Government Area. Out of the ten existing wards, six (with a predominance rural population) were purposefully chosen for this study. It was discovered during the preliminary field research that the chosen wards shared several characteristics. 180 young people who work with animals were questioned, and the questionnaire was divided equally throughout the six wards. Due to this, the chosen wards received equal representation regardless of the number of adolescents in any one of them. Primary data were used in the study. The data were collected from the respondents with the use of a questionnaire. Other relevant information for the study was obtained from journals, textbooks, conference proceedings and the Internet. Data collected were analyzed using descriptive statistics such as frequency and percentage. A 5-point Likert-type scale was used to measure the problems of youth-run livestock production which was on the scale of not at all a problem (1) to a very serious problem (5). The hypotheses were tested using Chi-square and Pearson Product Moment Correlation.

3. Results and discussion

The majority of the respondents (53.3%) fell within 21-25 years of age while the mean age of the respondents was 24.8 years. The youths are within their productive and active working age range and appear to be more receptive to agriculture than their aged counterparts (Ogunlela & Mukhtar, 2009; Sumberg et al., 2021). The majority (47.8%) of the respondents had 6-10 persons as their family size with a mean size of 9 persons. Lanjouw & Lanjouw (2001) and Khan et al., (2021), affirmed that relatively large household sizes may likely enhance family labour supply on the farm, hence supporting favourable production. The majority (76.1%) of the respondents were males while the remaining 23.9% were females. A larger proportion (79.4%) of the youths were single. 45.6% of the respondents had ND/NCE while 22.2% had a secondary school education. The result revealed that most of the respondents had at least primary education. Ali et al., (2020) opined that the level of education provides the privilege to acquire better skills, results and impacts, as well as relevant variation on the adoption of innovation among people. This is presented in Table 1.

Table 1: Characteristics of the respondents

Variable		Freq.	%
Age (Mean = 24.8 Years)	< 21	35	19.4
	21 to 25	96	53.3
	>25	49	27.2
Family size (Mean = 9 members)	< 6	64	35.6
	6 to 10	86	47.8
	>10	30	16.7
Sex	Male	137	76.1
	Female	43	23.9
Marital status	Not married	143	79.4
	Married	37	20.6
Educational level	Primary	10	5.6
	Secondary	40	22.2
	ND/NCE	82	45.6
	HND/Degree	26	14.4
	No formal education	22	12.2
Quarterly Income from livestock (Mean = ₦102,58.03)	<100,000	57	31.7
	≥ 100,000	123	68.3
Years of Experience in livestock production (Mean = 8.92 Years)	<5	79	43.9
	≥6	101	56.1

The major livestock enterprises in which the youths commonly reared are cattle (48.3%), goats (34.4%) and sheep (32.8%).while the least are poultry (18.3%), pigs (10.6%) and rabbits (6.1%). This is presented in Table 2.

Table 2: Livestock commonly reared by youths

Livestock commonly reared	Frequency	Percentage
Cattle	87	48.3
Goat	62	34.4
Sheep	59	32.8
Poultry	33	18.3
Pigs	19	10.6
Rabbits	11	6.1

The problems facing youth-run livestock production include insufficient financial resources (4.5), animal illnesses (4.2), expensive animal feed (3.9), absence of government incentives (3.7), lack of economic infrastructure (3.5) high transit costs and inefficient service (3.2). This is presented in Table 3.

Table 3: Problems of Youth-run Livestock Production

Indicator	Mean
Insufficient financial resources	4.5
Animal illnesses	4.2
Expensive animal feed	3.9
Absence of government incentives	3.7
Lack of economic infrastructure	3.5
High transit costs and inefficient service	3.2

The chi-square analysis shows that a significant relationship ($p<0.05$) exists between sex ($\chi^2 = 8.8$), educational level ($\chi^2 = 35.1$) and income generated from livestock farming innovativeness. The result indicated that the sex and educational level of the youths are very likely to affect the income they generate from livestock enterprises (Yekinni et al., 2015; Mulema et al., 2021). This is presented in Table 4.

Table 4: Association of selected variables and income from livestock ventures

Variable	χ^2	Decision
Sex	8.81**	S
Marital status	2.49	NS
Educational level	35.12**	S
Major occupation	11.36	NS
Constraints	32.63	NS

χ^2 = Chi-square **= $p<0.05$ NS = not significant S = significant

However, the Pearson Product Moment Correlation showed that age (r = 0.37) and years of experience in livestock enterprises (r = 0.41) had a significant ($p<0.05$) relationship with income generated from livestock production. The result indicated that age and years of experience in livestock farming initiatives will have a positive effect on the income generated by the youths from livestock production (Sanusi et al., 2017; Oghenero et al., 2021). This is presented in Table 5.

Table 5: Relationship of selected variables and income from livestock ventures

Variable	r-value	Decision
Age	0.37**	S
Family size	-0.73	NS
Years of experience	0.41**	S

**= $p<0.05$ NS = not significant S = significant

4. Conclusion and Recommendations

It could be concluded from the study that youths in the study area are involved in livestock production and they earn economic benefits from it. The youths have potentials which needed to be tapped for agricultural development in the study area and Nigeria as a whole, especially against the backdrop of massive youth unemployment in the country.

Based on the result of this study, it was recommended that financial institutions should assist the youths through the provision of capital and the need to create an enabling environment through the provision of infrastructure such as roads, regular power supply and water. Also, policies that will give easy access to production resources for the youths should be encouraged while their education should be enhanced since it remains the most powerful tool to empower the youths.

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